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**Governor Baker Nominates Nathan A. Byrnes of Westfield as Clerk
Magistrate of the Westfield District Court**

BOSTON – Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated Attorney Nathan A. Byrnes of Westfield to the position of Clerk Magistrate of the Westfield District Court. Attorney Byrnes has 21 years of legal experience in the public and private sectors. Attorney Byrnes has served as Acting Clerk Magistrate of the Westfield District Court since September 2017.

“Attorney Byrnes’s understanding of legal proceedings from his experience as First Assistant and Acting Clerk Magistrate will allow him to serve effectively in the Westfield District Court,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “I am pleased to submit his name to Governor’s Council for their advice and consent.”

“As an experienced attorney who has been both an advocate and an administrator in the court, I am confident that this qualified nominee will bring knowledge and wisdom to the Westfield District Court,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “If confirmed, I am confident he will serve all parties before him fairly.”

The District Court hears a wide range of criminal, civil, housing, juvenile, mental health, and other types of cases. District Court criminal jurisdiction extends to all felonies punishable by a sentence up to five years, and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; all misdemeanors; and all violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. The District Court is located in 62 courts across the Commonwealth.

For more information about the District Court, visit their [homepage](#).

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor’s Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political

Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April 2015.

About Nathan A. Byrnes:

Attorney Nathan A. Byrnes has served as Acting Clerk Magistrate of the Westfield District Court since September 2017. As Acting Clerk Magistrate, Byrnes oversees a staff of eight while reviewing applications for criminal complaints and arrest warrants in addition to presiding over small claims trials, show cause hearings, civil motor vehicle hearings, and municipal by-law and environmental citations. From 2005 to 2017, Attorney Byrnes served as First Assistant Clerk Magistrate of the Westfield District Court. Prior to his work in the Westfield District Court, Byrnes held his own private practice focusing on criminal defense, real estate and civil litigation and probate and divorce proceedings. As a private attorney, he represented clients in the District, Superior and Probate Courts. From 1998 to 2004, he was Associate Attorney in the office of Ross & Ross, P.C. in Springfield focusing on criminal defense, real estate and personal injury law. Attorney Byrnes earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice from Stonehill College in 1994 and his J.D. from Western New England College School of Law in 1998. Attorney Byrnes lives in Westfield with his wife Sheila and his two children, Shea and Riley.

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